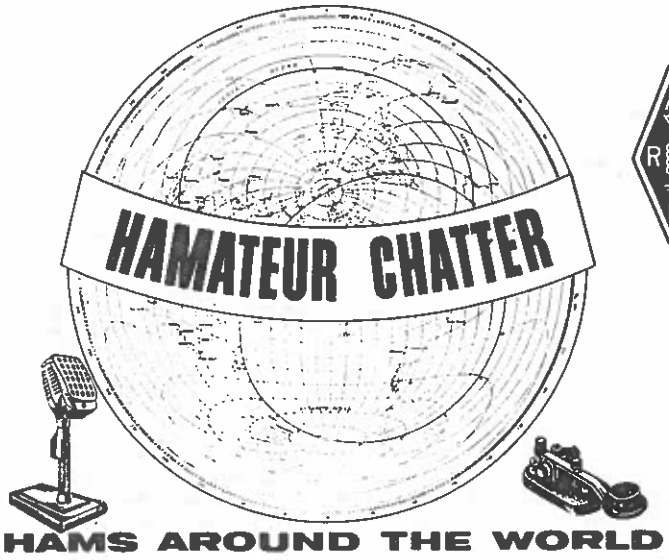
The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc.

The World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Club

FEBRUARY 1970 NUMBER EIGHTEEN



HAMATEUR CHATTER STAFF

Chet Sakura, W9CTI — Editor
4661 North 57th — 461-4770
Milwaukee, Wis. 53218

Russ Burlinghame — Layout & Ass't Editor

Bob Price, WA9JLU — Circulation
Ted Willett, W9NHE — Production

M.R.A.C. OFFICERS

President	Dick Oberholtzer	W9ZPV	782-9158
V. Pres.	Ray Weeks	WA9JOV	964-1996
Treasurer	Charles Dawson	W9CUW	352-9258
Secretary	Walt Glish	W9YYW	453-6693

Board Members: Travis Baird, W9VQD (Chairman); Carl Rohde, W9ROM; Jim Ott, W9LCD; Harold Engelke, K9CMX; Lloyd Wantland, WA9JKD; Jack McLeland, W9ATK; Chester Sakura, W9CTI.

NETWORK OPERATION IN WISCONSIN

"Networks, networks everywhere and not a QSO in the bunch!" This rather brutal distortion of the passage from the Ancient Mariner is probably more truth than fiction. Between 5PM and 9PM on 75 meters, there are more networks operating than all other bands put together. I'm sure that some of you have heard the disgruntled operator who said that everytime he called CQ he was on some net frequency. Actually, he should count his blessings, because if all these stations were scattered over the band, instead of being congregated, it would be something else! Actually, a network is a group of two or more stations that get together for the purpose of exchanging information, to send and receive messages addressed to a third party, or to discuss technical matters, to handle other traffic varying from completely frivolous to emergency information.

Amateur network operation goes back a long way. However, it is generally agreed that formal network operation began in earnest in Wisconsin right after WW2, and it began in Milwaukee, with Cy Shallow, W9SQK, and a few others getting together with about 12 others scattered over the state. They started the Badger Emergency Net, which has operated continuously for 23 years, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and at one time had a daily check-in of 90 stations or more. The record check-in of 141 stations, December 23, 1962, still stands. I recall the nite, because conditions were right for long skip, and we handled over 30 messages from Bob Hope and his Military Camp Show from an air base at Thule, Greenland. When long skip went out, they relayed via a VE station in New Foundland.

The organizations consist of the WSBN, the BEN, the BWN, WIN and WSSN. NTS procedure is used but no one gets too excited if someone deviates from it a little, especially if they are newcomers. In many cases, procedure is changed to fit the situation. The emphasis is on getting the traffic handled and no station is called on procedure infractions unless they are completely flagrant or the errors degrade accuracy or slow the operation down. All section nets are under the general overall supervision of the SCM for conformity with NTS rules and procedure and are under direct control of the SEC during emergency situations. All the phone nets are now on one frequency 3985 KHz. Many other states are going this way and the benefits are many. Another net, the Wisconsin Teletype Net, will probably eventually join the group.

Continued next column

PRESIDENT'S NEWS AND VIEWS

I am concerned with the chatter on amateur bands that lack interest. It sounds like either a brag session of ability to purchase expensive equipment or the senseless noises heard on the CB frequencies. Our frequencies are preserved for public interest and communications. Rebuke those that make it otherwise! The Monday night net on 146.67 is getting shorter all the time. Why don't we report on the net all items interesting to the members of the net. I hear club meetings mentioned and this is good. All the clubs in the area should be announced to all interested. The net will die unless more interest is generated in worthwhile projects. How about it?

73,

Dick Oberholtzer, W9ZPV

Networks---continued.....

WNA member nets handle much traffic to and from military people stationed in the U.S. and overseas and other routine third party messages such as from schools and universities. They also handle special severe weather reports to and from the Weather Bureau and routine and emergency traffic to and from the Red Cross, highway traffic surveillance for the Tripple A and Wisconsi State Traffic Patrol, Flood traffic and river levels for the Corps of Engineers and others. The Section nets, as well as other regional and local nets, are the main bulwark of emergency communication Local nets are very active in local operations with the Safety Services and Law enforcement. The Milwaukee group has an especially brilliant record in all facets of public service, public safety and emergency operation under the eminent leadership of Bob Goldstein, K9KJT, and his capable assistants. Most people could stop here and the story would lose nothing but it would not be complete, however. The MARS in Wisconsin operating several networks are highly efficient, and cooperate completely with othe nets in delivering ultimate destination traffic. The consuming desire is to get the job done and it gets done! Cooperation is whole hearted and complete.

Operating procedure varies according to the operation, the job at hand, and situation. Let me hasten to say that, although any net operator may be called upon to use NTS, Military or law enforcement procedure in the various operations, this should not discourage anyone from getting into network operation. Everyone ha

Continued page

Continued

vast patience and tolerance for the newcomer and if anyone does thoughtlessly criticize, he will hear from the others immediately! Each net has a manager, an assistant manager and a list of regular and alternate net controls. Wisconsin Network operators have pioneered in system procedures now in common use all over the country.

As stated previously, all Wisconsin Networks hold an impressive record of performance under both routine and emergency conditions. This includes NTS, AREC, and MARS nets. Letters of praise, thanks and commendation fill several folders and come from the Governor; Stewart Wright, AAA; Jim Anderson, ARC; Bill Harms, U.S. Weather Bureau; Col. Hesse, Corps of Engineers and others.

Evolution in technology affects the networks. The BEN began as an AM net and as SSB grew, it held out until about 1964 or so and finally had to move from 3950 KHz to 3985 KHz SSB. The Section Nets in Wisconsin are in somewhat better shape than some other state nets because of an organization formed about 10 years ago, known as the Wisconsin Nets Association. Sid Pokorney, W9NRP, thought of it first and everyone exposed to it quickly realized that the concept was sound. It is an organization composed of the net managers of the five Wisconsin sections nets, plus one delegate for each 25 members, plus one. The SCM and the SEC are automatically members with one vote but hold no office. The group meets four times a year to handle net matters and problems, runs the Wisconsin QSO Party, and operates a WNA picnic once a year.

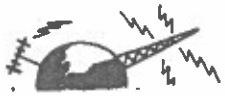
Network operation offers something for everyone. DX hounds spend much time snagging elusive DX stations all over the world. NTS and MARS stations maintain schedules with some of the best DX stations going: Antarctica, the North Polar Dew Line, Viet Nam and many more. Someone always shows up with word on band openings, etc. Experimenters, technical people, antenna men can get accurate reports on the results of their work from up to 50 stations at one crack! Ragchewers can have a ball before, during and after the nets. In fact, there are "After the Net" nets for that very purpose, and everyone has heard or participated in the long standing "Country Cousins" net. Public Service, safety services, emergency operations are all represented in network operations as mentioned before.

Regardless of your own favorite phase of amateur operation, join in network activity. It is interesting and rewarding! And don't forget the VHF operations, they represent the local and even section operations of the future. Coast-to-coast repeater systems are just around the corner.

So, network operations represent one of the most worthwhile and rewarding facets of amateur operation, and truly satisfies the concept that amateur operation qualifies as a public service. This fact is now acknowledged by many very important agencies who look upon us not as amateurs but more accurately as volunteer professionals, doing a professional job.

Sherman Carr, W9NGT

A-B-C of NETS & ORGANIZATIONS



BWN	Badger WX Net
WSBN	Wis. Side Band Net
BEN	Badger Emergency Net
WIN	Wis. Intrastate Net
WSSN	Wis. Slow Speed Net
WRTN	Wis. Radio Teletype Net
SCM	Section Communications Manager
SEC	Section Emergency Coordinator
EC	Emergency Coordinator
NTS	National Traffic System
MARS	Military Affiliate Radio System
WNA	Wisconsin Nets Association
AREC	Amateur Radio Emergency Corps
ARPSC	Amateur Radio Public Service Corps
MLSEN	Milw.-Lake-Shore Emergency Net

EDITOR'S CORNER

For want of copy to print a club paper, the editor was fortunate in receiving the paper on "Networks" by Sherm Carr, W9NGT given at our October meeting. With a little refinement and additions for publishing purposes, it is a very enlightening treatise on the operation of Nets. Further research uncovered other nets that should be of interest to many hams and these have been listed.

Most hams have a two-part interest in communications. First, probably, is the working of DX and other types of QSO's "away" from our local QTH. The second is the camaraderie of hams thru eye-ball QSO's and local nets. The local emergency nets and others serve to supply some of this need besides the primary purpose of emergency training and public service.

Also there is a need for local listening frequencies, even in the low frequency bands. The Instant Service Nets--WCARS and ECARS on 7255KHz and MIDCARS on 7258 KHz--seem to be progress in that direction. December 1969 CQ Magazine has a fine article on these nets. Several of the fellows report at least listening on these frequencies so let's hear from others.

Chet Sakura, W9CTI

HELPING HANDS

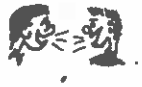
We need more names for this column. Also, each member should try to help anyone who is just beginning.

MILT KRAUTHOFF, W9BTQ, 251-2155
Solid state and IC circuits
AL BELANGER, W9MDG, 461-8272
General subjects and tube circuits
JACK MC LELAND, W9ATK, 352-0292
VHF, FM and 2 meters

NEXT MEETINGS

Feb. 12th meeting will be a continuation of the lecture-demonstration by Harold Isenring, W9BTI Dec. 11th. With all the antennas, line-stretchers, sweep-generators, oscilloscopes, coax cable, etc., it was quite a demonstration. There was a homebrewer in action and it was a huge success. The Feb. meeting will only be a question and answer session so bring along your knotty problems, not only on antennas and xmission lines, but on general electronics too.

March 12th meeting will be the annual Auction Night. Bring along your surplus and goodies (translated: junk) and your pocket book. Attention: The Oak Creek Bandit will make his yearly appearance!



WISCONSIN AND LOCAL NETS

NET	TIME	DAYS	MGR.	FREQ.
BWN	0645	Daily	W9AYK	3985 KHz
WSBN	1700	Daily	WA9QNI	3985 KHz
BEN	1200	Daily	WA9QKP	3985 KHz
WIN	1915	Daily	WA9TXN	3662 KHz
WSSN	1830	T-W-F	K9KSA	3780 KHz
WRTN	1930	Sat.	K9GSC	3620 KHz
AREC	2100	Mon.	K9KJT	146.67 MHz
RTTY	2000	Sun.		146.88 MHz
RTTY	2000	Wed.		146.88 MHz
MLSEN	1930	Mon.		29.5 MHz
GERITOL	0900	Daily		50.31 MHz
OZAUKEE	1300	Sun.		3940 KHz
OZAUKEE-RC		Daily		146.55 MHz

'Not So DX'- From Other Clubs & Organizations

Megacycle racine

The club is composed of hams from Racine, Kenosha, Burlington and Waterford areas. Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in the Civil Defense room in the Safety Building in downtown Racine. Visitors cordially invited. Club is active on 29.6 MHz FM with 10 mobile and 5 base stations. Plans are being made to use the 29.5 rigs during a road rally held here as base and checkpoints. The SET exercises will be participated in again. With non-amateurs in the club, theory sessions are held for them and others that wish to upgrade themselves.

OFFICERS

President Lane Gehrig, WA9WEZ
Vice Pres. Ken Fonstad, WA9TBQ
Sec.-Treas. Bill Erickson, WA9TPQ

Lane Gehrig, WA9WEZ

Hamtrix west allis

WARAC holds its meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 8:00p.m. Visitors welcome! Meeting place is at the McKinley Field House, 1000 South 72nd Street. Theannual Christmas Party was held on December 9 at the fieldhouse. The ladies auxiliary served ham, beef, two potato salads, beans, jello, cakes and more deserts plus preparty punch bowl. Raffle tickets for the Ranger xmtr is going slow. Shell out fellows! Norm, W9SKF, bemoans the lack of homebrewers PLUS lack of operators when needed.

Lynn Tamblyn, WA9KRF

Bear Facts bell

BELL EMPLOYEE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY OF WIS.

The meeting place at Torbeck's is no longer available. This won't keep 'em from having the usual Winter "T" Party. Sure enough, Jan. 1970 issue announced the "Winter 'W.H.' Party" (formerly 'T' Party) to be held at WESTWARD HO restaurant on January 16th.

NEW OFFICERS

President Walt Fitting, W9OI
Secretary Ray Baumdicker, K9HNR
Still Treas. Charlie Dawson, W9CUW

QRZ menomonee falls

The Menomonee Falls Radio Amateur Club meets on the last Tuesday of every month at the Menomonee Falls Village Hall, Emergency Operating Center. The current roster lists 27 members, some of whom are also members of the Milwaukee Club.
Bob Francisco, W9DIM, showed his frequency counter pre-scaler at a recent meeting. Using 3 IC's, it extends a 1 MHz top frequency counter to about 30 MHz. It uses only about 10 millivolts at its input.

Elections held Jan. 27 re-instated all regular officers, as published in the previous Hamateur - Chatter issue, plus two board members: Harland Craft, WA9LAF, and Jack McLeland, W9ATK.

The January meeting also included the "Clean-Up-The-Shack-&-Sell-That-Junk" mart. There were some who went home smiling - and others carried the same "goodie-boxes" that they came with.

Feedback ozaukee

Ozaukee Radio Club meets monthly on progressive days of the week so everyone gets a chance to attend a few meetings a year. The next meeting days are Feb. 12 and Mar. 13 at the Hilltop School at 8:00 p.m. Hilltop School is at the junction of Highways 32 and 33 in Port Washington. Their post-Christmas, post-New Year, pre-Valentine dinner will be held after the SET exercises Jan. 24. New club shoulder patches have been ordered so Ozaukee will be identified at Hamfests, etc. An ambitious 2-meter xmtr-rcvr project is past the planning stage. The club has a net on 144.55 and invites the Milwaukee boys to report in.

OFFICERS

President Jeff Klopp, WA9YBM
Vice Pres. Grant T. Kritchman, WA9SFI
Treasurer Richard F. Husting, Sr. WA9TZU
Secretary Daniel J. Smies, WA9RPB

Ed Bach WA9BMA

W9HHX

MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

The M.S.O.E. Amateur Radio Club is the oldest student organization on the campus and dates back to 1910. Presently the membership is 27. It represents a high degree of technical proficiency in all phases of ham radio and electronics. Among them are three extra class, nine advanced and three first class radio telephone licensees. New growth is also seen in the club with five non-licensed and two novices.

The club station is well equipped and includes the following and more: Collins 75A4, 30S1, C.E. 100E, the famous "Black Box" with PP 4-400's, Clegg Interceptor on 6-meters, Motorola D33GGV on 2-meters, RTTY Model 15 and Preforator, TH 6 Tribander, 3-el Quad tribander, 11-el on 6 meters and dipoles on lower frequencies. The highlight of the fall term was the purchase of new equipment for novice operation. This is the first addition of new equipment in five years and was undertaken thru dues. The new equipment is a Drake 2B and a Johnson Ranger. This new rig affords a back-up station to the main station.

Operating proficiency of W9HHX members remainshigh. Three exotic DX were contacted this fall: Saudi Arabia, Laos and Mongolia. They were the second station to work Cape Kennedy ham station WB4ICJ after Apollo XI lift off for which they received a commemorating certificate. In Field Day tests, they were 15th in the country and 1st in Wisconsin. They operated from Lapham Peak with two transmitters operating with portable generators and ten operators. They amassed a total of 1350 contacts, bettering the previous year by forty per cent. They received second place in "Worked All Europe" RTTY contest last spring but their top honor is the "Worked All Zones" award after twenty years of effort.

Regular meetings are held in the Allen-Bradley Theater basement every three weeks. The remainder of the year schedule is as following: Feb. 20, Mar. 13, Apr. 3, Apr. 24 and May 15 at 7 p.m. All visitors welcome!!

OFFICERS

President Lee Michaud, K8OOV
Vice Pres. Roger Hoffman, WA9IYA
Treasurer Richard Drew, K9PJB
Secretary Ted Williams, WAØIOC

Lee Michaud, K8OOV

HAM-ADS

SELL OR SWAP - - Apeco Dry Copy Machine, with 8½ X 11 & 8½ X 14 paper: $75 or ? Cent.Elec.100v $300. . . . . Walt Glish, W9YYW, 453-6693

FOR SALE -- Hickok Mod. 121 Cardomatic Tube-Checker: $55. Boonton Sig. Gen. Mod. 82: $165. Wally, W9FQV, 781-3799

SELL: 1-TPS 592A/UPM-15 Pulse Gen $40. 1-Heath Q Mtr New $40. K9ISI, 4549 N.38, Milwaukee, 53209

Fred Catel, W9DTK
1892-1969

Fred joined the ranks of the "SILENT KEYS" December 14, 1969 as a result of a heart attack at his home at the age of 77. While W9DTK has not been active in recent years, either in MRAC or Ham radio, he was very active during the 1920's. He was Vice-President of MRAC in 1925, President in 1926 and 1947, business manager for several terms and was one of the original life members. He was editor of the Badger ARRL News, published by MRAC, in 1926. He was also active in the promotion of the Club's annual QSO parties, the initiations into the "Royal Order of the Wouff Hong" and other ham activities. At that time Fred worked for the Milwaukee Park Board and lived at the north end of Lake Park. At that location he was the most active ham station in town and handled a great deal of traffic--on CW of course!

In earlier days, Fred used the call sign "FC" in 1910, prior to the passage of the first laws regulating wireless passed in 1912. At the O.T.'s Nights, he used to tell about hanging around the United Wireless station "MK" at the Pabst Brewery. This early spark transmitter used one of the famous United Wireless "coffins" --an open core transformer which drew a couple of kilowatts off the AC line. Using a "solid state" receiver--of the carborundum variety!!--this station worked the ships on Lake Michigan on 600 meters. It is interesting to note that the call sign "MK" is still used here by the Milwaukee Police Department's inter-zone radiotelegraph station. When the Milwaukee Police Dept. went on the air with WPDK in 1930, Fred was hired as the number one electrical mechanic soon after. He held this post until leaving for active Naval service.

When Matty W9ZN and Schnell W9EK were organizing hams into the Naval Reserve in 1926, Fred signed on as a commissioned officer. He was in active duty during WWII and retired in 1955 with a rank of Captain in the Reserves. After WWII he returned to the PD and after a few years, retired to operate Catel's Radio Shop at 17th and Wisconsin. In later years his hobby became painting in which he was widely acclaimed. His story is the story of early Ham activities.

Herb Wareing, W9NY

CHATTER & BAND ACTIVITIES

Herb Baker, W9GSP retired from Wisconsin Electric Power Co. after 45 years, mostly in radio communications.

John, W9GIL was called by G6ZO on 7 MHz Cw and was told that W9GIL was his first W9 in 1936!

New roster going to press soon. Send any changes or corrections to Charlie Dawson, W9CUW. Also, send ARRL renewal membership to him for a savings. His address is 2345 W Skyline Road, Glendale, Wisconsin. 53209, Phone 352-9285.

Charley Ackermann, W9OWM and XYL Marge took a trip to Europe recently.

Some SS results were as follows: K9CAN 79,950 cw, W9GIL 10,164 cw and 12,380 fone, W9OQP 6,084 fone, W9CTI 7,585 cw, and WN9BGJ 2,400 cw.

K9CAN got his Extra Class so OM W9GIL, not to be outdone, also passed his on his first try.

SILENT KEYS

Hugh Wilson	W9NAV
Fred Catel	W9DTK
William Birch	K7KCJ, ex-W9PNC

A.R.E.C. - - - -

Robert L. Goldstein, K9KJT
Emergency Coordinator, Milw. Co.

"HAM GOES TO THE OPERA"

When grand opera is mentioned the popular conception of a menu is caviar and Champagne, but when the Florentine Opera Company of Milwaukee put on their opening performance of "Aida" in Milwaukee's new Performing Art Center there was a serving of ham, (amateur radio ham), or rather hams served the opera.

Because of the magnitude of the production, over 400 individuals took part, and with a cast of over 250 the Art Center did not have dressing room facilities with intercom. Three rooms not designed as dressing rooms and without intercom were used by the overflow of the cast.

The production management felt there would be problems so the A.R.E.C. was asked to furnish auxiliary communications. This was a new approach to communications by the Opera Company and a new assignment to the A.R.E.C., so we all played it by ear for the preliminary sessions. But by the time of the dress rehearsals we had a system with handi-talkies functioning.

This operator feels we were needed and that we filled that need. I wish to thank all those who helped carry out this assignment: WA9JOV, W9ATK, W9SUF, WA9MME, WA9RYR, W9VQD, W9CUW, and K9PSX.

Wells Wait, WA9MLL

OPEN HOUSE

The next Open House will be at our Prexy's shack on Sunday, Febr. 22nd from 2 PM to 4 PM. In order to help clean his shack, visitors will be asked to each take one "thing"! Dick Oberholtzer, W9ZPV lives at 1110 Lower Ridgeway, Elm Grove. Directions: Go west on Watertown Plank Road and straight out on Juneau Blvd. to the second road past the RR tracks. Turn South, then take the left fork.

The March Open House will be at John Scarveci, W9GIL's. His address is 910 East Calumet. This is a chance to see a top-notch DXer's shack. Date is March 29th, from 2 PM to 4 PM.

The first Open House was held at Walt Glish, W9YYW. There were over 12 hams and beginners. Walt demonstrated CW, 2-meter Operation, 10-meter net and RTTY. Walt's gear consists of Drake 2B, Collins 32S3, Central Electronics 100 V (for sale see ad) and his 2-meter gear is a homebrewed 3-channel rack and panel job. It features pilot lights indicating channel in use and can be switched to memory. He has two RTTY rigs and can send to himself, hi! Standby rcvr is a Halli S40B and a Wireless Set #19 (whazzat?). It was too dark to see his antennas at the bottom of Wauwatosa.

JOINS STAFF

Russ Burlingame, ex-WN9SVG volunteered to help on the HAM' CHATTER staff. This doubles the editorial staff to 2! Russ is an artist so the paper will be improved by his talents. He will not remain an ex-W9 much longer, he says, then up the ladder! Previously he had edited, published and struggled with the F.R.A.C. publication "Q-R-Z" so he comes well equipped to help edit, publish and struggle with us! Welcome aboard!!

PASSED EXAMS CONGRATS!

John W9GIL	Extra
Dick K9CAN	Extra
Wally W9YYW	Extra
Jack K9GZK	Advanced
Sus WN9BGJ	General
Dave WN9BWP	General